Amendments to the claims:

Please cancel claims 3-4, 6, 8, 10, 13-14, 21-22, 24-26 and 30-31 without prejudice to their renewal in a related patent application.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a fusion polypeptide, wherein the fusion polypeptide comprises:

(a) one or more domains which comprise a cellular co-receptor protein, or a fragment~~, derivative or functional equivalent~~ thereof (CCR);

(b) one or more domains which comprise a cellular receptor protein, or a fragment, derivative, or functional equivalent thereof (CR); and ~~optionally~~

(c) a fusion component (FC)~~, and~~

~~(d) one or more domains of a viral protein, or a fragment or derivative thereof (VP)~~.

2. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein CCR is one or more protein(s) selected from the group consisting of (i) human CCR5, or a fragment~~, derivative or functional equivalent~~ thereof, (ii) human CXCR4, or a fragment~~, derivative or functional equivalent~~ thereof, and (iii) a lectin-binding receptor.

3-4. (canceled).

5. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein CR is one or more protein(s) selected from the group consisting of (i) human CD4, or a fragment~~, derivative or functional equivalent~~ thereof, and (ii) a lectin-binding receptor.

6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 5, wherein the human CD4 fragment comprises Ig-like domain 1, or a fragment ~~or derivative~~ thereof capable of binding gp120.

8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended)The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein FC is an immunoglobulin-derived domain ~~selected from the group consisting of a multimerizing component, fusion partner, a targeting protein, a serum protein, or a molecule capable of binding a serum protein~~.

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of claim ~~10~~ 9, wherein the immunoglobulin-derived domain is selected from the group consisting of the Fc domain of IgG~~,~~ and the heavy chain of IgG~~, and the light chain of IgG~~.

12. (original) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 11, wherein the Fc domain of IgG is human FcΔ1(a).

13-14. (canceled)

15. (original) A fusion polypeptide encoded by the isolated nucleic acid of claim 1.

16. (original) The fusion polypeptide of claim 15, selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1-9.

17. (original) A method of producing a fusion protein, comprising culturing a host cell transfected with a vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1, under conditions suitable for expression of the protein from the host cell, and recovering the fusion protein so produced.

18. (original) The fusion polypeptide of claim 15 which is a dimer.

19. (currently amended) A fusion polypeptide, comprising:

(a) one or more domains which comprise a cellular co-receptor protein, or a fragment~~, derivative or functional equivalent~~ thereof (CCR);

(b) one or more domains which comprise a cellular receptor protein, or a fragment~~, derivative, or functional equivalent~~ thereof (CR); and ~~optionally~~

(c) a fusion component (FC)~~, and~~

~~(d) one or more domains of a viral protein, or a fragment or derivative thereof (VP)~~.

20. (currently amended) The fusion polypeptide of claim 19, wherein CCR is one or more protein(s) selected from the group consisting of (i) human CCR5, or a fragment~~, derivative or functional equivalent~~ thereof, (ii) human CXCR4, or a fragment~~, derivative or functional equivalent~~ thereof, and (iii) a lectin-binding receptor.

21-22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) The fusion polypeptide of claim 19, wherein CR is one or more protein(s) selected from the group consisting of (i) human CD4, or a fragment~~, derivative or functional equivalent~~ thereof, and (ii) a lectin-binding receptor.

24-26. (canceled)

27. (currently amended) The fusion polypeptide of claim 19, wherein FC is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ a multimerizing component~~, fusion partner, a targeting protein, a serum protein, or a molecule capable of binding a serum protein~~.

28. (original) An HIV-specific protein capable of binding an HIV viral particle and/or blocking the ability of an HIV viral particle to infect a cell comprising two of the fusion proteins of claim 19.

29. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the HIV-specific fusion protein of claim 28 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

30-31. (canceled)